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Message Text

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ORIGIN SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 L-03 ISO-00 H-02 DHA-02 SCA-01 ARA-10 /019 R

DRAFTED BY SCA/SCS/EAPOWERS/MRER
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L/SCA-MR. DALTON (SUBS)
---------- 033544 /62
O 162034Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 304958

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC(BISSELL, JANE ELLEN)

SUBJECT: W/W JANE ELLEN BISSELL

REF: A. QUITO 8710; B. QUITO 8725

1. DEPARTMENT DISCUSSED WITCH DOCTOR STORY WITH CONGRESSMAN AMBRO'S OFFICE AND WITHELEANOR YODER CONGRESSMAN AMBRO'S OFFICE REPORTS THAT CHECK WITH MR. BISSELL CONFIRMS THAT HE BELIEVES HE OBTAINED INFORMATION FROM ELEANOR YODER DURING CONVERSATION WITH HER. YODER STATES SHE SPOKE WITH DR. BISSELL ON DECEMBER 10 AND DECEMBER 12, ON RECEIPT BY YODER FAMILY OF LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER STORY ABOUT MISSING BISSELL GIRL. SHE STATES THEY DISCUSSED YODER/HERSCHBERGER CASE AND BISSELL CASE LOOKING FOR SIMILARITIES, ETC., BUT MOSTLY DISCUSSED CASES IN GENERAL TERMS. TO BEST OF HER MEMORY STORY ABOUT COUPLE BEING RELEASED BY WITCH DOCTOR DID NOT ORIGINATE IN ITH SUCH STORY AND THAT SHE DID NOT GIVE STORY TO MR. BISSELL. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES MS. BISSELL EITHER MIS-

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UNDERSTOOD CONVERSATION OR THAT WITCH DOCTOR RELEASING COUPLE STORY EMANATED FROM ANOTHER SOURCE.

2. DEPARTMENT STRONGLY ADVISES THAT EMBASSY NOT INVOLVE ITSELF IN REWARD ADMINISTRATION. DEPARTMENT POLICY CLEARLY STEERS EMBASSY OFFICERS AWAY FROM INVOLVEMENT IN

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EXTRACURRICULAR PAYMENTS SUCH AS RANSOM PAYMENTS. BELIEVE REWARD PAYMENTS INCLUDED. SUGGEST THAT FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE LOCATE PERSONS WILLING ADMINISTER REWARD EITHER AMONG PROMINENT LOCAL CITIZENS, LOCAL ATTORNEY OR LOCAL POLICE AND POST REWARD WITH ADMINISTRATOR PRIOR LEAVING ECUADOR. PRESUME REPRESENTATIVES OBTAINED POLICE CLEARANCE TO POST NOTICES. CONGRESSMAN AMBRO'S OFFICE INFORMED OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

3. CONGRESSMAN AMBRO'S OFFICE ATTEMPTING OBTAIN REQUESTED INFO ABOUT ESCOBAR. STAFF MEMBER DISCUSSING CASE WITH DEPARTMENT NOT FAMILIAR WITH ESCOBAR'S NAME, BUT CHECKING CONGRESSMAN'S BISSELL FILE.

4. IS IT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER CROUCH/BISSELL HAD A GUIDE ON RIO NAPO CANOE TRIP AND IF SO, WHO? SPECIFICALLY FAMILIES ARE TRYING TO DETERMINE IF VINCENTE SEVILLA WAS KNOWN TO CROUCH/BISSELL.
ROBINSON

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